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(ST. LOUIS, MO) -- Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3), a member of the United States House of Representatives Science Committee, will visit Saint Louis University's Earthquake Center Friday, May 2, to meet with officials and discuss seismic events that recently occurred and have alerted the area to the possibility of future earthquake threats.

Saint Louis University has a long history of tracking earthquakes. SLU's Earthquake Center was one of the nation's first and remains a leader in the field, installing its first monitoring device in 1909. Today the University has high-tech earthquake monitoring devices in the Central United States and in several foreign countries.

Carnahan, who had commissioned an analysis of public safety needs for the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Area two years ago, is interested in hearing from Robert Herrmann, the Earthquake Center's Director, as to what Congress can do to aid scientific efforts in order to provide further research and reporting advancements.

Already pointing out the need for a comprehensive and efficient plan to identify all potential vulnerabilities of the area's critical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, power plants, and levees, Congressman Carnahan, also a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, wants to facilitate greater federal government support and cooperation.

SLU monitors the New Madrid Fault and seismic hot spots in the central United States as part of the Advanced National Seismic System of the U.S. Geological Survey. The Earthquake Center's specific focus is on the needs of the design and construction, planning and emergency response communities. SLU's research is furthering the understanding of the seismic hazards in the central United States. Seismologists study everything the recent 5.2 quake that hit the Midwest to the small earthquakes that happen every day and at most people never feel.